

## TRAITS OF FILIPINOS.

### NATIVE WOMEN ARE SHREWD IN BUSINESS.

*Cruelty to the Children—They Are Compelled to Labor Under Penalty of the Whip—Ragtime Music Popular—Widow Cleans the Streets.*

(Special Letter.)

Mrs. Laura W. Schwichtenberg, who spent six months as government inspector, studying the women of the Philippine Islands, has given some interesting facts regarding her investigation, as follows:

While in Manila I lived in one of the picturesque grass huts of the natives with my secretary and a little Filipino maid. It took us some time to overcome our terror of the insects and reptiles. We slept in big four-poster beds, which had in place of springs cane woven bottoms covered with thick woven matting of coconut and palm fiber. This was spread with a sheet and made a resting place hard enough to produce aches and pains for a week. The pillows were stuffed with jute. A round bolster of the same material was intended for the knees. A closely woven mosquito netting hung from the four posts and was tucked under the edge of the matting all around the bed to keep out mosquitos, centipedes, tarantulas, chamelions, etc. To prevent these pests from inhabiting our shoes we took the shoes to bed with us. The running of the rats over the ceiling at night was not the least of our troubles, and our maid suggested that we get a snake to catch them. A snake, indeed, we found to be considered a necessary factor of every house, so I went in quest of one. I found peddlers selling snakes like puppy dogs, and one which was pointed out to me as especially desirable for the purpose was warranted to be a first-class rat catcher and harmless. A look at the monster, however—it was fully twenty-eight feet long and not less than a foot in diameter—and I decided to put up with the rats, unless some other destroyer could be found. The price asked for it was \$1.50. They wanted to put it into our attic, between the ceiling and the grass roof. Cheaper kinds could be bought for 50 cents. The big fellow recommended



LAURA W. SCHWICHTENBERG.

was coiled about a long pole, which was carried on the shoulders of two men.

#### Widow Cleans the Streets.

Probably the most advanced woman in Manila is a widow who owns all of the street-cleaning department. Her plant comprises a hundred or more two-wheeled carts and caribous to draw them. They are driven about the streets by her workmen, who remove the street refuse to a distant stream. Every Sunday afternoon the owner inspects the animals herself and turns them loose in a meadow, to roll about and wallow in the mud and graze. She is making a fortune out of the enterprise, it is said.

The child labor on the Cebu islands is most deplorable. In one place—an English hemp factory—about 50 small children form the motive power which works a monstrous press. The children are kept hopping constantly by an overseer, with a long whip, and their motion keeps the iron bar at the top of the press whirling from morning until night. The weight of this bar, the velocity attained by constant urging and the trampling of dizzy children under the feet of stronger ones, all produce a startling and most pathetic sight.

Ramona Sabinosa Caballerous of Manila is a rich woman, and keeps the largest shop for women's clothing in the city. Completed garments are packed away in chests, few being exposed to view. All of the sewing is done by hand. Styles do not vary. The favorite decoration is applied swallows, which cost \$4 apiece, and the more swallows the more elegant the gown. A gray silk is the usual foundation. A skirt of this kind is made

short in front, and has a narrow oblong train. The fashionable costume consists of such a skirt with a white jacket-like garment of silk, coconut fiber, embroidered all over in colored silks and spangles. A single undergarment is worn underneath it.

#### The Morning Bath.

Clad only in a coarse slip, the Filipino women take their baths at the corner pump every morning. They are extremely neat in their habits, even the cigarette girls taking with them to their work clean dresses to wear on their way home. Their wooden shoes are worn without stockings, and the sound of them on the cobblestone pavement mornings, when they are going to their work, is one to be remembered. All classes are fond of jewelry, and although a woman may have only cheap cotton gowns, she is sure to possess an assortment of jewels which represent her savings.

All classes of women are gamblers, and their favorite pastime is cockfighting. Sunday is the day usually devoted to this sport, and the owners of the birds take them to church in order that no time may be lost. Another fad is the accumulation of American gold money, into which they turn their own currency as soon as they have enough, but they lose it in the betting ring of the cockfight.

#### Good Business Women.

The women are bright and energetic and do most of the work, while the men take care of the children. Many of them are quick to learn and shrewd in business and some are at the head of large concerns. No one, in fact, is idle. As soon as they are old enough the girls are sent to the convents to learn ecclesiastical embroidery, which they do beautifully. They are so industrious that they often carry their work about the streets and to the shops with them, sometimes not missing a moment even when they are making a bargain. All the cloth is made on hand looms by women, and the children, while they are still very young, are kept very busy winding shuttles. A handkerchief which would take a Filipino woman a year to embroider might bring \$25. Cigarette girls earn 20 cents a day. A dressmaker, for a plain silk dress, receives \$3, and for a gingham slip, 50 cents. Chicken raising is becoming a favorite feminine occupation, and since the advent of Americans a few Filipino women are teaching the lower classes of the schools. Street peddling is a favorite occupation of the old Filipino women, and they carry varying stocks of fruits, mangoes, sweet rice, flour cakes, etc., all heaped in coconut shells on their heads.

#### Ragtime at Funerals.

The Filipinos are musical, and, as a rule, play one or more instruments. They dance a great deal, the solo Spanish dances, the waltz and Spanish lancers being favorites. Ragtime music is so popular at present that it is heard at the head of funeral processions.

The people are devout, attending early mass regularly and never missing a feast day. Every woman and child wears a double scapular, one in the front and one at the back of the neck.

Mrs. Schwichtenberg's formidable-looking government document admitted her to everything but the catacombs which connect the churches, convents and monasteries.

#### Wild Region in Illinois

An African jungle transplanted to Central Illinois would be the best description that could be given to a remarkable tract of land in Taxewell county, lying along the Mackinaw river, near the village of Lilly. This tract, in local parlance, is known as "the Lost Forty." It is without doubt the wildest piece of land in all Illinois, and consists of a continuous series of abrupt and deep ravines. Not a foot of the tract could be cultivated. The ridges are full of fox dens, wolves are occasionally found, and turkey buzzards hover over it in large flocks. Even people familiar with the territory have been lost in the dense forest. Except for a few giant oaks, the wood has no commercial value. The tract is known as "the Lost Forty" because no one knows who owns it. For years it has been used for trading purposes, and many unwary persons from a distance have advanced money upon it and taken mortgages in various sums, only to receive a questionable title to a worthless piece of land. On the Taxewell county tax books the forty appears with "Owner unknown." The land is watered by innumerable springs and the Mackinaw river, which winds its way through it.—Illinois State Journal.

Recently Invented Artificial Leather. Fibrolem, a new artificial leather, has just been invented by a Frenchman. It consists of pieces of refuse skins and hides, cut exceedingly small, which are put in a vat filled with an intensely alkaline solution.

If a man thinks only of himself he hasn't much use for brains.

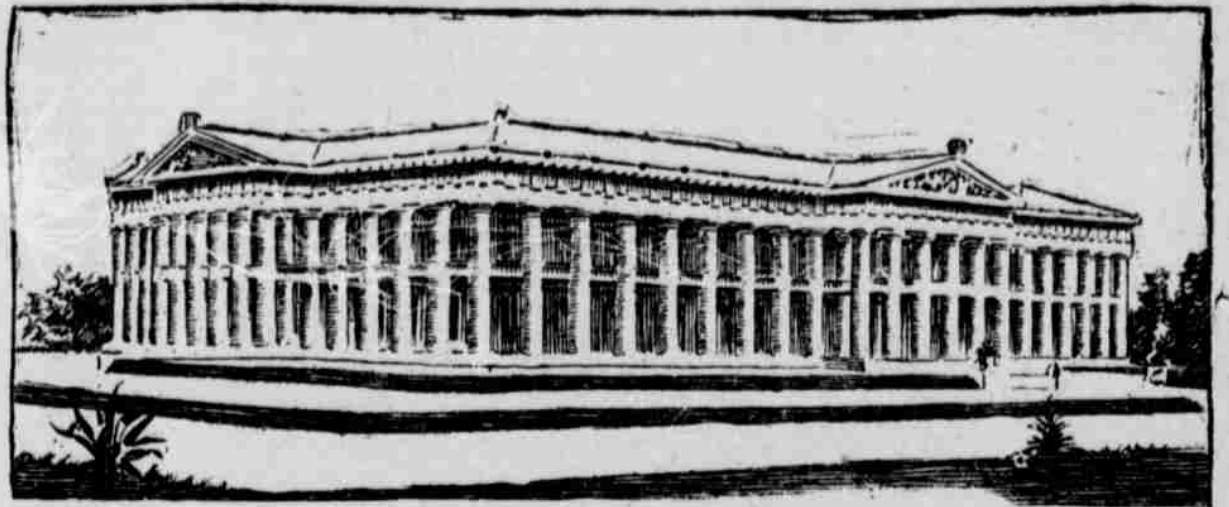
## FRATERNITY BUILDING FOR ST. LOUIS' WORLD'S FAIR

The Louisiana Purchase World's Fair will have a fraternal building on its grounds erected by the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Royal Leaguers, and members of all other fraternal societies in this country. No world's fair or exposition has ever had such a structure, and it will be one of the extremely unique and interesting

features of the St. Louis celebration. The building will be called the Temple of Fraternity and will cost \$200,000. It will be erected by the World's Fair Fraternal Building Association, under the auspices of the Missouri Fraternal Congress.

The building will be 300 feet by 200 feet in size—an adaptation of the Par-

thenon of Athens. It will be surrounded by Doric columns inclosing 16-foot verandas. There will be 80 rooms and an inner court. The rooms will be equipped with modern conveniences of every kind for fraternity members. For the building site and surrounding grounds space to the extent of 500 to 600 feet has been allotted.



UNIQUE BUILDING TO BE A FEATURE OF WORLD'S FAIR AT ST.

## JAP FIRE FIGHTERS.

### WHEN NOT FIGHTING FLAMES THEY ARE BUILDING.

Fearfully Destructive Fires That Have Swept the Capital, Tokio—It Is Asserted That Incendiarism Is Not of Infrequent Occurrence.

The firemen of Japan spend their time when not engaged in subduing flames in building operations and hence there is a mild suspicion that the firemen are not over anxious to minimize the ravages of fire lest their other occupation of housebuilding should suffer. The average fireman is a pugnacious individual. His greatest pleasure, says a writer, is to pick a quarrel, and brawls are a necessary element of his life. Until very recently he was almost invariably tattooed in gorgeous colors, the beauty of which was his constant boast. As preliminary to the scuffle, he would slip his clothes off his shoulders and make his opponent sick with envy at the sight of his wondrous tattooed figure.

The firemen a little over 50 years ago numbered 10,000, but their present strength is 1,640. The reduction is due to the introduction of modern fire engines, which have greatly mitigated the horrors of a fire in a town of wooden houses. The engines have also impressed the firemen with a sense of their waning importance, for they have no longer absolute control over fires. The authorities of today are content if the annual fires do not cover more than one hundredth part of the city. What the annual ravages were in former times is a matter of historical record. The fire of 1657 practically destroyed the entire city, and over one hundred thousand persons are said to



OLD STYLE JAPANESE FIREMAN. have perished in the flames. The Shogun's palace was reduced to ashes, and the prisons were opened on condition that their inmates should return after the fire was subdued. They never came back, for their mad rush for a place of safety was interpreted by the warden of the city gate as an attempt at escape. He closed the gate when he saw them coming, and they, together with others, were either trampled to death or perished in the conflagration. In the great fire of 1772 the flames left behind them a track 15 miles by two and a half from the southwest outskirts of the city to beyond its northeast boundary; and in 1806 a fire which originated in the southern extremity covered in 22 hours

an area of nearly six miles in length and half a mile in width. Even since the restoration there have been no less than five great fires in Tokio. In 1873, 41 streets were destroyed; in 1876, 70 streets and 10,000 houses were burned down; in 1879, 77 streets and 13,451 houses were wiped out, and in 1881 no less than 11,000 houses went up in smoke. The last great fire occurred in 1892, when 4,000 houses were destroyed and 34 lives lost.

#### A PICTURESQUE FIGURE.

The Lap Women Very Clever in Managing the Reindeer.

The Lap women who live in Alaska are proving themselves exceedingly valuable by their aptness in the management and care of the reindeer and they are now teaching the native Alaskan art, if such it may be called. There are about a dozen reindeer stations now established in Alaska and more to follow. The natives are required to serve an apprenticeship of several years at the reindeer stations. During this time they are practically taught how to manage the deer and the making of sledges and reindeer harness. After the expiration of their service the government allows each a number of deer as his own personal property. The total number of reindeer in Alaska at present is 3,500, of which some 2,000 have been distributed to the Eskimos.

The average Lap woman is a picturesque figure. She is generally young and robust, and ten chances to one has an infant in her characteristic Lapland cradle, which is hewn out of a solid log and carried on the back by a strap. The wife of the chief herder is one of the most noted women of the colony. She is very intelligent, and her particular duty is to teach the Eskimo women the art of making reindeer clothing, which is the warmest and best adapted for Arctic climates. She also instructs them how to prepare the various foodstuffs which the reindeer furnishes, such as butter, cheese, and the cooking and the drying of the meat. For this work she receives the same pay as the herder.

She travels from station to station, where the classes of women are assembled from the surrounding country of 100 miles or more. She then gives daily object lessons in her domestic work and gradually the Eskimo women are taught the ways of civilization.

#### BAD TEMPER MAY BE CURED.

Now Treated Much as Other Diseases Mental and Physical.

It is a very generally recognized fact that an irritable temper and fits of anger are diseases, and amenable to treatment just as are other maladies. The diseases, too, are curable if taken in time. They are diseases of the nerves manifesting themselves, like any other diseases in their own particular way. In adults these maladies can be often curbed and sometimes cured, but in children they can be effectually dealt with. The symptoms first show themselves in irritability or maliciousness, the child flying into a temper one minute only to be sorry the next. This is described as neurasthenia, and can be easily cured by dieting or such simple measures as dashing cold water on the angry child or placing him before a mirror to let him see how ugly he looks. All this should be done calmly, without blows or threats. It will be found that this mode of treatment is very efficacious, but if it does not have the desired effect or something extremely unusual in a very excited manner. It may distract the child

and, a regular course of treatment is prescribed for the wickedly angry child. Let him drink nothing but water and milk, permit no meat foods, allow him fresh vegetables, eggs and fish. The hours of rising and retiring should be fixed; he should be as much as possible in the open air, and be bathed and well rubbed daily. In fact, regularity in all things should be rigidly adhered to. Neurasthenics should have as much nourishing food as possible.

#### MUSHROOMS AS FOOD.

They Give Palatableness to Other Food Materials.

Recent investigations made by the department of agriculture show that mushrooms are about equal to potatoes in the element of nutrition that goes to make flesh and blood, but that, on the other hand, they do not hold much of the fuel stuff required to keep the body machine running. Containing, as they do, a very large percentage of water, they may be said, in a sense, to correspond with fresh vegetables in respect to food value. The notion that their composition resembles closely that of meat—a conception which has caused the term "vegetable beefsteak" to be applied to them—is an absurd error. One would have to consume eight pounds of mushrooms in a day in order to take the place of the ordinary ration of beef or mutton. The great usefulness of mushrooms lies in the palatableness which they give to other food materials. This is a matter of no small importance from the point of view of the economic expert in dietetics who looks upon the attractiveness of dishes as a notable element in their value. This common mushroom is a trifle more than 91 per cent water. It contains nearly 4 per cent of flesh forming stuff, 3½ per cent of starch and sugar substances, and 1 per cent of fat and fibre, with one-half of 1 per cent of mineral material.

#### An Arithmetic Lesson.

A lesson in arithmetic is no joke—painful reality, rather—yet a Boston school boy is alleged to have been inspired to humor by the very worst of the problems in long division. After he had failed on the sums the teacher had set, he asked permission to give one of his own. The privilege was granted. "My aunt has eight children," he said, "and she doesn't like to favor one above the other. She was at the market the other day and she bought eight apples for them, one apiece; but when she got home she found she'd lost one apple. All the same she divided the apples so as to give each child the same number. How did she do it? The class hadn't got along to fractions, and the boy insisted that his aunt knew nothing about algebra. So the puzzled teacher finally asked: 'Well, how did she divide the seven apples so as to give each of the eight children an equal number?' 'She made apple sauce.'—Youth's Companion.

#### The World's Loneliest Missionary.

The loneliest missionary in all the world is said to be Rev. J. O. Springer, whose station is on Herschel Island, near the mouth of the Mackenzie river, well within the Arctic Circle. The latest received letter from this most solitary man is dated October 22, 1900. No ship has been at Herschel Island for two winters, and the missionary's white neighbors are at Peel river, 250 miles away.